From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Tech Afternoon Update, Presented by Verizon: DOJ Antitrust Staff Reportedly Suggests Blocking T-Mobile-Sprint Merger
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:49:55 PM

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- Staff in the Justice Department's antitrust division are recommending officials block the T-Mobile US Inc.-Sprint Corp. deal, according to two sources familiar with the matter, and the department, which usually follows staff recommendations, is expected to make a formal decision in the next month. The move breaks from an agreement in principle between the Federal Communications Commission and the telecommunications companies earlier this week to approve the deal, but sources said Justice Department staff members have long been skeptical of the proposed merger. (Reuters)

- Ireland's Data Protection Commission is launching a probe into Google's

online advertising data collection practices, which is expected to determine if the way Google processes data for its ads business meets requirements laid out in the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. The investigation comes after France's privacy regulator fined the company 50 million euros ($56 million) in January for violating the EU privacy law. (CNBC)

- Amazon.com Inc.'s shareholders rejected two proposals pushed by civil rights groups and activist investors regarding company sales of facial recognition technology, with one that would have required approval for sales to government agencies and another that would have established an independent review of any possible civil violations caused by the tech. Following the vote, Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.) said during a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on facial recognition technology that the results just mean "that it's more important that Congress acts." (CNET)

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